De-regulating the administered prices of coking coal

836. SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that administered price and distribution of coking coal has been de-regularised by a notification, recently;

(b) if so, the reason/justification for such action when the coal subsidiaries are monoply producers of coal;

(c) the necessity for keeping administered price and distribution of coking coal;

(d) whether any upper ceiling has been fixed in fixation of prices of various grades of coal;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) If not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The reasons for the deregulation of pricing and distribution of coking coal were the BICP recommendations to this effect because the prices of final products like steel etc. were decontrolled and high cost of mining from underground coal mines which were not fully reflected in the notified prices of these coals.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) and (f) Do not arise in view of answer to (d).

Jewellery exports

837. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that out of global demand of jewellery estimated at US $ 40 billion, India's share is very low, being 1% inspite of export of gold jewellery increasing to US $ 567.17 million in 1995-96 from US $ 485.78 million in 1994-95;

(b) whether the high rates of Post-Shipment Rupee is Export Credit announced by the Reserve Bank of India is responsible for making exports more expensive and less profitable in this sector; and

(c) if so, the steps taken so far and proposed to be taken so that India becomes a major player in the gem and jewellery sector like China and Italy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH): (a) According to DGCI&S statistics, India's exports of gold jewellery at US $ 480.40 million in 1995-96 compared to US $ 421.20 million in 1994-95 is 0.74% of the global demand for gold jewellery of US $ 65 billion.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Exports of gems and jewellery constitutes a thrust area of our exports. The Government has taken various steps to boost exports from this sector. The steps include fine tuning of Export-Import Policies ensuring easy availability of raw materials at internationally competitive prices, encouraging exporters to participate in international exhibitions, making India an International trading centre for diamonds, reducing the minimum value addition for plain gold jewellery from 15% to 10% and providing grant and necessary assistance to Gem and Jewellery Export Promotion Council for Gem Testing Centres and Jewellery Products Development Centres to help provide trained manpower to the gems and jewellery trade and industry.

नई औद्योगिक-नीति का कार्यान्वयन

838. **श्री अजीत जोगी:**
श्री एस० एस० सुरजेवाला:

क्या उद्योग मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि: